

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15800 142017Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 142008Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5560

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK, IR

SUBJECT: EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT

REF: TEHRAN 9926

1. UKG HAS OFFICIALLY DENIED PRESS REPORT THAT
CHANCELLOR HEALEY SUPPORTED AN EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL
AGREEMENT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO IRAN.

2. THE OCTOBER 13 FINANCIAL TIMES CARRIED A FRONT PAGE
ARTICLE BY ROBERT GRAHAM STATING THAT CHANCELLOR OF
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THE EXCHEQUER HEALEY HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED A PRE-

PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AT THE END OF THE CHANCELLOR'S RECENT VISIT TO IRAN. EMBASSY INQUIRIES AT HM TREASURY AND FCO BROUGHT A FIRM, OFFICIAL DENIAL HEALEY MADE SUCH A STATEMENT OR THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE UK'S OPPOSITION TO A PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT. FCO OFFICIAL ATTRIBUTED ARTICLE TO INACCURATE REPORTING AND PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH VERBATIM TEXT OF CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS WHICH CORROBORATES UKG DENIAL.

3. HEALEY SAID BRITAIN IS ANXIOUS TO HELP ESTABLISH A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND IRAN THAT REFLECTS IRAN'S STATUS AND IMPORTANCE. HE SAID, "THERE IS NO PLACE IN THIS RELATIONSHIP FOR THE SORT OF INEQUALITY WHICH INEVITABLY MARKED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SOME OF THE EX-COLONIAL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ESTABLISHED CONSTITUTIONAL LINKS WITH IT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS."

4. WHEN PRESSED FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON WHAT IS MEANT BY A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP," FCO OFFICIAL SAID NO FIRM POLICY HAD YET BEEN WORKED OUT BUT IT WOULD BE A NON-PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID IT MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A "COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD SOMEHOW MEET POLITICAL NEED OF IRAN TO BE RECOGNIZED AND GIVEN SPECIAL PRESTIGE BY THE COMMUNITY -- SIMILAR TO AGREEMENT WITH CANADA. FCO OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THE IDEA OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE SHAH.

5. EMBASSY OFFICER USED OCCASION TO POINT OUT US VIEW (STATE 242737) THAT GIVING IRAN PREFERENTIAL STATUS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A LACK OF EC INTEREST IN THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

RICHARDSON

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